

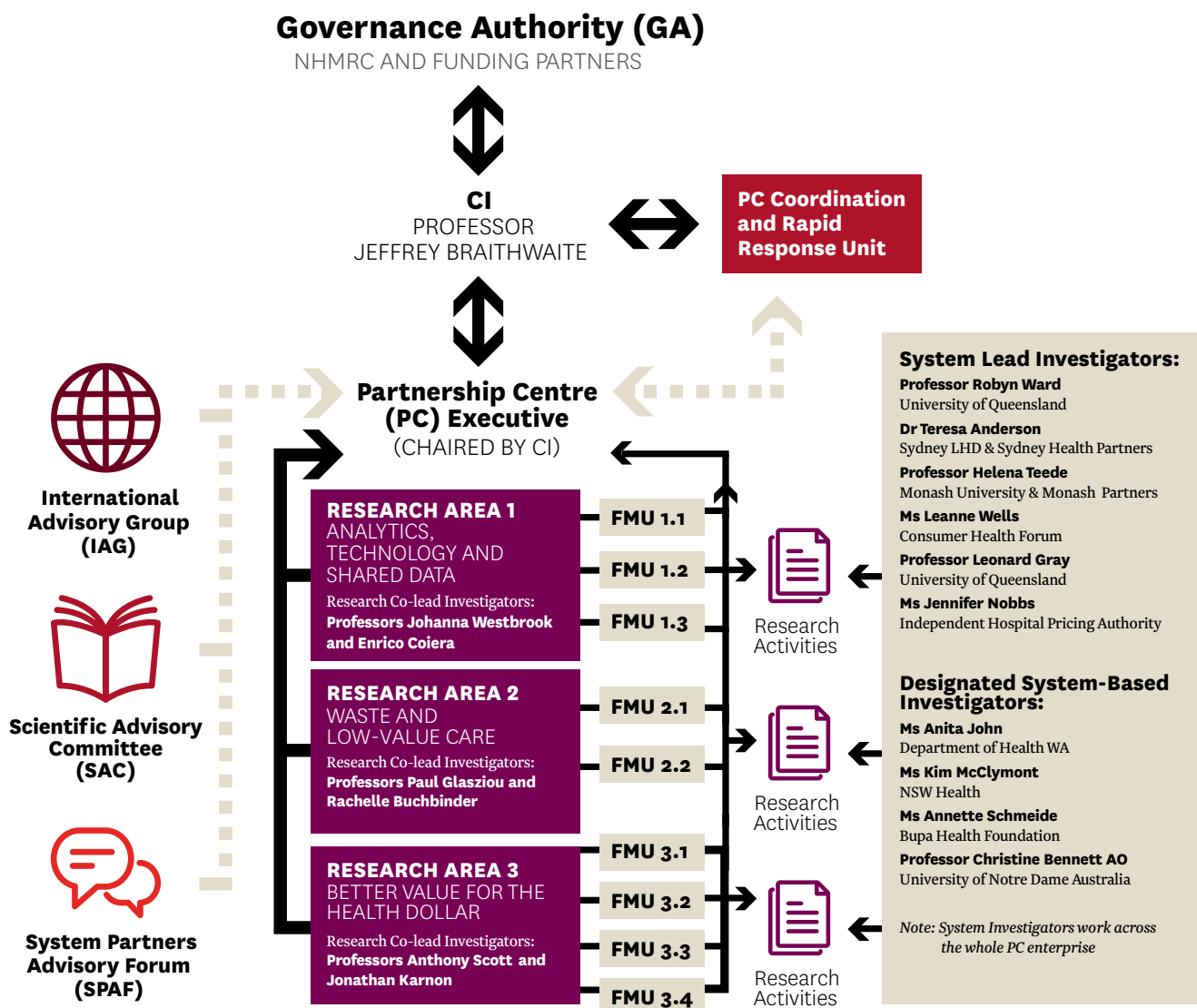
# NHMRC PARTNERSHIP CENTRE FOR HEALTH SYSTEM SUSTAINABILITY



## Year 1 Annual Report 2017-2018

On Saturday 3 December 2016, the Minister for Health and Aged Care announced that AIHI was successful in its bid to become the administering institution for Australia's third National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Partnership Centre. This \$10.75 million grant will support a far-reaching five-year research program to develop an implementable set of interventions to strengthen the sustainable performance of Australia's healthcare system.

For this Partnership Centre, the NHMRC worked with its funding partners – Bupa Health Foundation, NSW Ministry of Health, Department of Health, Western Australia and the University of Notre Dame Australia – to develop the expression of interest and ensure the Centre was resourced for success. These funding partners form the Governance Authority and each nominates a system-based investigator to participate in the research team. The structure of the Partnership Centre is represented below.



The partnership model of the Centre ensures that academics and system partners work together to design the research, conduct the investigations and translate the outcomes to expedite early adoption in policy and practice.

In early 2017, the Partnership Centre's Coordinator, Ms Joanna Holt, began work with the Chief Investigator, Professor Braithwaite, and the investigation team to develop a workplan. Ms Holt also worked with the Centre's partners to negotiate funding agreements. Public engagement began in March 2017, with the Centre holding a national symposium on health system sustainability, alongside a consumer forum aligned to ensure that consumers had a strong voice in the design and conduct of health services research conducted by AIHI and the Centre.

The entire investigation team subsequently met in June 2017 to discuss and refine their research plans in readiness for review and approval by the Governance Authority. The annual workplan was subsequently approved and provides for nine streams of research within three overarching themes.

The execution of the Partnership Centre funding agreements with the NHMRC and each one of the funding partners, as well as a multi-institutional agreement with each of the seven participating universities, was not completed until December 2017, delaying the start of research work until January 2018.

## OVERARCHING THEMES

### Research Area 1

Using Analytics, Technology and Shared Data to Improve Health and System Performance

### Research Area 2

Reducing Waste and Low-value Care

### Research Area 3

Promoting Better Value for the Health Dollar

Despite this delay, many of the Lead Investigators were quick to produce results culminating in early recruitment of research staff, commencement of scoping reviews, and production of abstracts for conferences, protocols and manuscripts for publication, and training packages. A full Investigation Team Meeting was held in May 2018, during which Lead Investigators reported on their achievements to date and plans for the coming year.

The topic of health system sustainability is broad and challenging, often involving outcomes that can only be measured over the longer term. However, it provides an exciting array of collaborative research opportunities that are being eagerly taken up through the participating universities and multiple system partners in all states and territories of Australia.

Our vision is that the Centre's research findings significantly influence the evolution of a resilient healthcare system that is affordable, cost-effective and delivers improved health outcomes for all Australians.

